

REMARKS

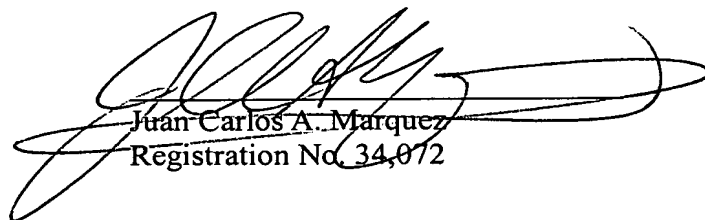
Prior to the examination of the above-referenced application on the merits, Applicants request the Examiner to accept and acknowledge entry of the Amendments under PCT Article 34 (English Translation), which is attached hereto, in substitution of the original claims attached to the specification. Applicants will submit that the Amendments under PCT Article 34 were timely submitted during the International Preliminary Examination phase of the corresponding PCT application.

In addition, Applicants are amending claims 5-8, 10, 12 and 18, as outlined above, in connection with the claims set forth in the above-noted Amendments under PCT Article 34 (English Translation). No new matter is being added to the application as a result of the above-outlined amendments.

In view of the above amendments and Applicants' comments stated herein, Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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